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"Community adult education"

to Ace Consultation, May 1992

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Adam Graycar

No. 4/92

Adam Graycar

**ORGANISATION:** ACE CONSULTATION

**DATE:** MAY 1992

**PLACE:** ADELAIDE

**TOPIC:** COMMUNMITY ADULT EDUCATION

Our educ'n system forms  
part of the most complex &  
convoluted bureaucratic institution.  
They're fed up with strange  
structures & practices to reach  
what ought to be fairly  
simple objectives - to  
transmit basic knowledge &  
skills for living in a  
complex society.

So much of our <sup>political &</sup> ~~educ'n~~ <sup>educ'n</sup>  
emphasis goes into educ'n for  
making a living & too  
little into educ'n for living

Elephants - UK. power - stupor &  
Br. ceremony, splendour pay  
Aust ...

Committee grasped little  
with comp. report - 3

- \* First national inquiry into adult and community education in Australia in fifty years

30 recommendations

Most - 22 - to Committee  
- 8 - to State

but coherence & integration  
new resources, more likely to  
come from Committee.

Now in SA \$510,000  
- up from \$125,000 in 1960

\$365,000 from State  
\$145,000 from Committee - 1/3rd  
x 1/3rd per year.

- \* Provides invaluable documentation of the scope and contribution it makes to the educational, economic and social welfare of the nation

Education is what survives when what has been learnt has been forgotten  
(B F Skinner 1964)

- \* Provides evidence of the vitality and expanding influence of the sector
- \* Records the essential relationship between adult and community education and social justice policy and strategies
- \* Achievements are impressive and have continued despite very poor resources, little official recognition and lack of policy
- \* The Report will alert policy makers to the need for changes in resource allocation, recognition and some redefinition of roles and relationships throughout the different sectors of education

Your  
 Response should focus on  
 Print & Stake - Print  
 big picture / - stake  
 macro & policy issues &  
 local matters

(6) that grants allow for long-term planning. The Advisory Committee has recommended moving to triennial and block funding. However, the Commonwealth Grants are notoriously tardy and are decided annually.

(7) that all adult and community education grants automatically include a child care component. The CAEP Grants have included a modest contribution to childcare but there is a case for taking this issue up with Children's Services Office who have always refused to consider occasional childcare subsidies for programs. This is not the case in some other States.

(10) that States create a network of regional councils of adult education. In theory there is merit in this idea and we could plan for it in the longer term but it is more difficult to construct in States like S.A. than in, say, Victoria and Tasmania.

(21, 22) that States develop policy which allow for free use of other educational sector resources, for example, school and TAFE facilities, rooms, school buses. This touches a sore point with community groups who have resisted the prevailing "full" cost recovery approach to public resources - could be put on Cabinet's Human Services Committee agenda as a Social Justice

(26, 27) that State government policies, Universities and Local Government acknowledge the proven benefits of education for the aged (and we might add other unemployable sections of the population). This is a fluffy one but nevertheless worth raising in the context of a State Policy on Adult and Community Education along with some of the other issues raised in these recommendations

(30) that we budget to cover the cost of fees and materials for prisoners engaged in education and training. Now that prison education has been passed over to Correctional Services this is probably no longer an issue.

AT SA (unl) Anal of  
OTE 1 DETAFE - Bulletin

- \* The Amalgamation of OTE and DETAFE - will create the beginning of a formal consultative mechanism to coordinate and monitor policy across different human service departments

You could also  
mention  
Kay's commitment  
to the same here

\* Kay Schofield has commissioned a special research project to examine the future role of TAFE in adult and community education and a planning day has been held with participation from a wide range of interested parties (report on that day included)

- \* The introduction of Block Grants to established centres will give a greater degree of autonomy and security to providers and will give greater capacity for planned and coordinated provision.

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- \* In S.A. the Community Adult Education Program has a long history of providing program support and funding for neighbourhood centres (they are by far the principal recipients of grants from CAEP) and a proportion of the increased State money in the grants will go towards the development of Community Learning Centres ~~in areas where no provision currently exists~~

regional is -

Response in plural has  
prompted action nationally

\* Action is already happening:

- \* more than 60 learning centres in NSW have just been given sales tax exemption — this was one of recommendations of the report
- \* AAACE National Executive is negotiating with DEET to undertake a consultancy to examine the possible structures for a "high level" Working Party and development of Commonwealth policy and clearinghouse
- \* Proposal that the NBEET Skills Formation Council include a representative from the adult and community education sector

Issues to address

— vision for future  
5 yrs from now  
(attached)

Possible Issues for consideration in the response

- \* <sup>most suitable</sup> ~~more equitable~~ distribution of resources and where they are to come from
- \* the development of a State policy as well as a Commonwealth policy
- \* how to ensure adequate administrative support and policy directions without creating new bureaucracies
- \* how to encourage appropriate accountability without destroying flexibility and autonomy
- \* what is the best system of council/advisory committee and what membership - eg States' interests or sector interests and does it matter?
- \* regionalisation - are regional networks appropriate for all States